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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of determining the orientation of an image characterised
5 in that the orientation is deduced from the digital
representation of the image.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein curvature is calculated and
a decision on the orientation of said image is obtained on the
10 basis of the value of the calculated curvature.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said digital representation
is an edge representation.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a thoracic
image and wherein the curvature is determined of ribs or ribcage
in said thoracic image.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said image is a
20 mammographic image and wherein said curvature is calculated for
skin border edge segments of said image.
6. A method according to claim 1 comprising
- first and second derivative vector computation for pixels of
25 said digital representation,
- quantizing the direction and magnitude of computed first and
second derivative vectors,
- weighted voting of quantized first and second derivative
directions into analyzing coordinate system orientations so as to
30 determine a maximum vote,
- selecting the image orientation having the maximal vote.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein collimation areas are
excluded from said digital signal representation.

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8. A method according to claim 1 wherein direct exposure areas are excluded from said digital representation.
9. A method of orienting an image represented by a digital signal representation into a desired orientation comprising the steps of
- deriving orientation of said image,
 - subjecting said image to an orientation modifying geometric transformation to yield said desired orientation of the image wherein said orientation is derived according to the method of claim 1.
10. A method of orienting an image represented by a digital signal representation into a desired orientation comprising the steps of
- deriving orientation of said image,
 - subjecting said image to an orientation modifying geometric transformation to yield said desired orientation of the image wherein said orientation is derived according to the method of claim 2.
11. A computer program product adapted to carry out the steps of claim 1 when run on a computer.
12. A computer program product adapted to carry out the steps of claim 2 when run on a computer.
13. A computer readable carrier medium comprising computer executable program code adapted to carry out the steps of claim 1.
14. A computer readable carrier medium comprising computer executable program code adapted to carry out the steps of claim 1.